

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A nail puller comprising

a lever arm having a handle at one end and a portion of reduced width at its other end,

a base assembly comprising a base plate and a rocker plate, said rocker plate having a rounded toe for engaging a work surface,

means for pivotally connecting the lever arm to the base plate,

a first gripping jaw affixed to the lever arm, and having at least one tooth adapted to engage the shank of a nail,

a second gripping jaw affixed to the base plate at a distance from said toe, and having at least one tooth adapted to engage the shank of a nail at a point opposite a corresponding tooth on the first gripping jaw, whereby, when a nail shank is situated between said opposed teeth and a manual force is applied to said handle in the direction of the toe, a gripping force is applied the nail shank while the base plate pivots about a line of contact between the toe and the work surface, to pull the nail from the surface,

wherein each jaw has plural teeth with grooves between adjacent teeth, said grooves being of sufficient depth to avoid contact with the head of a nail whose shank is grasped by said teeth.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) ~~The invention of claim 1~~

A nail puller comprising

a lever arm having a handle at one end and a portion of reduced width at its other end,

a base assembly comprising a base plate and a rocker plate, said rocker plate having a rounded toe for engaging a work surface,

means for pivotally connecting the lever arm to the base plate,

a first gripping jaw affixed to the lever arm, and having at least one tooth adapted to engage the shank of a nail,

a second gripping jaw affixed to the base plate at a distance from said toe, and having at least one tooth adapted to engage the shank of a nail at a point opposite a corresponding tooth on the first gripping jaw, whereby, when a nail shank is situated between said opposed teeth and a manual force is applied to said handle in the direction of the toe, a gripping force is applied the nail shank while the base plate pivots about a line of contact between the toe and the work surface, to pull the nail from the surface,

wherein the rocker plate has a slot in its toe for stabilizing the nail puller when a nail is being pulled from the edge of a board.

4. (original) The invention of claim 1, further comprising a nail lifter for raising embedded nail heads from the work surface.

5. (currently amended) ~~The invention of claim 1~~

A nail puller comprising

a lever arm having a handle at one end and a portion of reduced width at its other end,

a base assembly comprising a base plate and a rocker plate, said rocker plate having a rounded toe for engaging a work surface,

means for pivotally connecting the lever arm to the base plate,

a first gripping jaw affixed to the lever arm, and having at least one tooth adapted to engage the shank of a nail,

a second gripping jaw affixed to the base plate at a distance from said toe, and having at least one tooth adapted to engage the shank of a nail at a point opposite a corresponding tooth on the first gripping jaw, whereby, when a nail shank is situated between said opposed teeth and a manual force is applied to said handle in the

direction of the toe, a gripping force is applied the nail shank while the base plate pivots about a line of contact between the toe and the work surface, to pull the nail from the surface,

wherein the ratio of the distance between the handle and the first gripping jaw to the distance between the toe and the first gripping jaw is greater than the inverse of the coefficient of friction between the nail and the teeth.

6. (currently amended) The invention of claim 1, wherein said ratio is at least 4:1.

7. (canceled).

8. (original) A nail puller comprising

a lever arm having a handle at one end and a portion of reduced width at its other end,

a base assembly comprising a base plate,

means for pivotally connecting the lever arm to the base plate,

a first gripping jaw affixed to the lever arm by at least one removable fastener, and having at least one tooth adapted to engage the shank of a nail,

a second gripping jaw affixed to the base plate by at least one removable fastener, and having at least one tooth adapted to engage the shank of a nail at a point opposite a corresponding tooth on the first gripping jaw,

said removable fasteners enabling one to replace said jaws when they are worn.

9. (original) The invention of claim 8, wherein said removable fasteners are machine screws.